



ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2394: empowerment scholarships: expansion; phase-in.

PRIME SPONSOR: Representative Allen J, LD 15

BILL STATUS: [Caucus and COW](#)

ED: DP (6-5-0-0)

Legend:

ESA – Empowerment Scholarship Account

SY – School Year

AP – Advance Placement

Amendments – **BOLD** and ~~Stricken~~ (Committee)

Abstract

Relating to ESA qualified students and examinations.

Provisions

1. Expands the definition of an ESA qualified student to include:
 - a. Beginning in SY 2018, any child in or eligible for grades K-1, 6 and 9;
 - b. Beginning in SY 2019, any child in or eligible for grades K-2, 6-7 and 9-10;
 - c. Beginning in SY 2020, any child in or eligible for grades K-3 and 6-11; and
 - d. Beginning in SY 2021, any child in or eligible for grades K-12. (Sec. 1)
2. Requires qualified students in grades 3-12 to annually take any nationally standardized non-referenced achievement exam, an AP exam or any exam related to college admission that assesses reading and mathematics, beginning in SY 2018.
 - a. Direct exam results to be reported to the student's parent; and
 - b. Exempts students identified with disabilities from exam requirements. (Sec. 2)
3. Modifies the definition of qualified student.
 - a. Removes a definition for legally blind; and
 - b. Stipulates the required full-time attendance at a government school be at least 100 days rather than the first 100 days of the prior Fiscal Year. (Sec. 1)
4. Makes technical changes. (Sec. 1, 2)

Current Law

[Laws 2011, Chapter 75](#), established the ESA program. An ESA qualified student is defined as an Arizona resident who is any of the following:

1. Identified as having a disability;
2. Attends or is eligible to attend kindergarten at a D or F school or school district;
3. A previous scholarship recipient of the ESA program or the Arizona Scholarships for Pupils with Disabilities Program;
4. A child whose parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces and on active duty or was killed in the line of duty (these students are exempt from any further requirements for qualification);
5. A child who is a ward of the juvenile court;
6. A child who is a sibling of a current or previous ESA recipient;
7. A child who resides within the boundaries of an Indian reservation; or
8. A child of a parent who is legally blind, deaf or hard of hearing.

The qualifying student must also meet at least one of the following requirements:

1. Attended a governmental primary or secondary school as a full-time student for at least 100 days of the prior fiscal year and who transferred under a contract to participate in an ESA;
2. Previously participated in the ESA program;

3. Received a scholarship from a School Tuition Organization and continues to attend a qualified school;
4. Was eligible for an Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities; or
5. Has not previously attended a governmental primary or secondary school but is currently eligible to enroll in a kindergarten or preschool children with disabilities program. ([A.R.S. § 15-2401](#))

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes) ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes) ☐ Emergency (40 votes) ☐ Fiscal Note